

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRIDGE 01268 222036Z

64

ACTION SY-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 ABF-01 /028 W

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R 221847Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7507

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

UNCLAS BRIDGETOWN 1268

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEC

SUBJ: MARINE SECURITY GUARDS

REF: STATE 136538

BRIDGETOWN 970, 1038

CARACAS FOR RSO

1. ON JULY 5 THE EMBASSY SENT THE FOLLOWING DIPLOMATIC NOTE  
CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS:

COMPLIMENTARY OPENING

" THE EMBASSY APPRECIATES THE APPROVAL GIVEN BY THE MINISTRY  
AND ANTICIPATES THE ARRIVAL OF THESE MEN IN EARLY AUGUST OF  
1974 AT WHICH TIME THE MINISTRY WILL BE FURNISHED WITH THE  
PARTICULARS.

THE EMBASSY WOULD LIKE TO ALLEVIATE ANY CONCERN THE GOVERNMENT  
OF BARBADOS MIGHT HAVE IN CONNECTION WITH THE AUTHORITY GIVEN  
THESE GUARDS AND PRESENTS THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

U.S. MARINE SECURITY GUARDS SERVE AT ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTEEN  
UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR MISSIONS THROUGHOUT THE  
WORLD. NOTHING IN THEIR CHARTER FOR ASSIGNMENT AS GUARDS  
AUTHORIZES THEM TO PERFORM ANY MILITARY DUTIES OR GRANTS THEM  
ANY AUTHORITY EXCEPT AS MAY BE DESIGNATED BY THE U.S. AMBASSADOR  
WITHIN THE PREMISES OF THE MISSION. THEY ARE STRICTLY  
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PAGE 02 BRIDGE 01268 222036Z

INTERNAL GUARDS FOR THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY. ONLY IN CASES

OF EMERGENCY, AND THEN WITH THE WRITTEN CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS, WOULD THEY BE EMPLOYED OUTSIDE THE PREMISES OF THE MISSION. ("PREMISES OF THE MISSION" AS DEFINED IN ARTICLE 1 (I), OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AS PUBLISHED IN THE BARBADOS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES & PRIVILEGES ACT, 1967-42, 21 AUGUST 1967).

SINCE UNDER THE TERMS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION THE PREMISES OF A DIPLOMATIC MISSION ARE CONSIDERED INVIOABLE (ARTICLE 22), THE UNITED STATES MARINE GUARDS WOULD HAVE THE POWER OF EJECTION OR SEARCH JUST AS ANY OTHER AMERICAN OFFICER OF THE EMBASSY PRESENTLY HAS. IN PRACTICE, THE EMBASSY ALWAYS DEFERS TO MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL BARBADOS POLICE FORCE IN THESE MATTERS WHEN ONE IS AVAILABLE, BUT IN AN EMERGENCY THE EMBASSY THROUGH ANY OF ITS STAFF HAS THE RIGHT TO EXERCISE THE POWER OF EJECTION AND/OR SEARCH.

AT ALL OTHER U.S. DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS THE MARINE SECURITY GUARDS ARE CLASSIFIED AS ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL MEMBERS OF THE MISSION STAFF UNDER THE TERMS OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION BY THE NATURE OF THEIR JUSTIFIED AND ACTUAL EMPLOYMENT AS BONA FIDE MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF. THE EMBASSY THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT UPON THEIR ARRIVAL THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY MARINE GUARDS BE CLASSIFIED AS ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF AS DEFINED BY ARTICLE 37, PARA 2 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. THE EMBASSY EMPHASIZES THAT THESE MEN WOULD HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO AUTHORITY OF ANY KIND OUTSIDE THE PREMISES OF THE MISSION WITHOUT THE EXPRESS WRITTEN CONCURRENCE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF BARBADOS.

SINCE NO FINAL DECISION REGARDING DESPATCH OF THESE MARINES CAN BE REACHED IN WASHINGTON UNTIL THE QUESTION OF CLASSIFICATION HAS BEEN RESOLVED IT IS REQUESTED THAT THIS MATTER BE HANDLED ON AN URGENT BASIS".

COMPLIMENTARYCLOSE.

2. AS OF THIS DATE THE EMBASSY HAS HAD ONLY AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RECEIPT. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS INDICATE THAT AN ANSWER WILL BE RECEIVED BY AUGUST 1.

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PAGE 03 BRIDGE 01268 222036Z

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